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Security Council

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GENERAL

S/PRST/1997/36
11 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3798th meeting of the Security Council, held on 11 July 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Sierra Leone", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

The Security Council recalls the statement of its President of 27 May 1997 (S/PRST/1997/29) following the military coup d'état in Sierra Leone on 25 May 1997. It remains deeply concerned about the continuing crisis in Sierra Leone and its negative humanitarian consequences on the civilian population including refugees and internally displaced persons and in particular, the atrocities committed against Sierra Leone's citizens, foreign nationals and personnel of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) monitoring group. It reiterates its view that the attempt to overthrow the democratically elected Government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah is unacceptable and calls again for the immediate and unconditional restoration of constitutional order in the country.

The Security Council is concerned about the grave crisis in Sierra Leone which endangers the peace, security and stability of the whole region and, in particular, about its possible negative impact on the ongoing peace process in neighbouring Liberia.

The Security Council strongly supports the decision of the Thirty-third Summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) held in Harare, Zimbabwe, from 2 to 4 June 1997 which appealed to the ECOWAS leaders and the international community to help the people of Sierra Leone to restore the constitutional order in that country and which underlined the imperative need to implement the Abidjan Agreement which continues to serve as a viable framework for peace, stability and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

The Security Council welcomes the participation of the Foreign Ministers of ECOWAS members of the Committee of Four in its 3797th meeting of 11 July 1997.

The Security Council welcomes the mediation efforts initiated by ECOWAS and expresses its full support for the objectives of these efforts as set out in the final communiqué (S/1997/499), issued at the meeting of the Foreign Ministers of ECOWAS, held in Conakry, Guinea, on 26 June 1997.

The Security Council calls upon those who have seized power to cooperate fully with these efforts so that the constitutional order in Sierra Leone will be restored immediately.

The Security Council will continue to follow closely the progress of efforts aimed at the peaceful resolution of the crisis and stands ready to consider appropriate measures if constitutional order in Sierra Leone is not restored without delay.

The Security Council will remain actively seized of this matter.

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S/PRST/1997/37
11 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3799th meeting of the Security Council, held on 11 July 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Cambodia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council is gravely concerned at recent developments in Cambodia, including violence, which have the effect of jeopardizing continued progress of the Cambodian peace process, and calls for an immediate end to the fighting.

"The Security Council reaffirms the need to respect the principles of national unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

"The Security Council calls upon all parties to respect fully their commitments under the Paris Agreements on Cambodia. It urges them to resolve their differences through peaceful means and political dialogue and in accordance with the spirit of national reconciliation.

"The Security Council calls upon the parties again to ensure the effective and smooth operation of constitutional institutions.

"The Security Council condemns all acts of violence and calls on all parties to ensure the safety and security of persons, and to respect the principles and rules of humanitarian law.

"The Security Council reminds the Cambodian Government of its public undertaking that free and fair legislative elections would be held in May 1998. It stresses the importance of this electoral process.

"The Security Council welcomes and supports all efforts to promote dialogue among the parties, including those undertaken by the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other Signatory States of the Paris Agreements on Cambodia.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

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S/PRST/1997/38
14 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3801st meeting of the Security Council, held on 14 July 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Civilian Police in peacekeeping operations", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has established or authorized a growing number of peacekeeping operations which contain both civilian and military components. It takes particular note of the increasing role and special functions of civilian police in such operations.

"The Security Council notes the efforts by the General Assembly and its Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in carrying out their task to review all aspects of peacekeeping operations, including, inter alia, enhancing the capacity of the United Nations system to accommodate the growing demand for civilian police in peacekeeping operations. It furthermore commends the efforts of the Secretary-General in this regard. The Council encourages States to look for further means to enhance the ways in which civilian police components of peacekeeping operations are set up and supported.

"The Security Council considers that in operations mandated by the Security Council or the General Assembly the civilian police perform indispensable functions in monitoring and training national police forces and can play a major role, through assistance to local police forces, in restoring civil order, supporting the rule of law and fostering civil reconciliation. It sees an increasingly important role for civilian police, among others, in contributing to the building of confidence and security between parties and among local populations, in order to prevent conflict, to contain conflict or to build peace in the aftermath of conflict.

"The Security Council encourages States to make available to the United Nations at short notice appropriately trained civilian police, if possible through the United Nations standby arrangements. It welcomes the role of United Nations selection assistance teams in this regard.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of the recruitment of qualified civilian police from the widest possible geographic range to serve in United Nations operations. It also expresses the importance of the recruitment of female police officers to United Nations operations.

"The Security Council encourages States individually or collectively to provide appropriate training of civilian police for international service. It encourages the Secretary-General to provide assistance and guidance to Member States in order to promote a standardized approach to the training and recruitment of civilian police.

"The Security Council underlines the necessity for United Nations civilian police, in accordance with their mandates, to be trained as required, inter alia, to render assistance and support in the reorganization, training and monitoring of national police and to help defuse tension on the ground through negotiations. The Council furthermore considers it essential that United Nations civilian police contingents contain adequate legal expertise.

"The Security Council underlines the need for close coordination between civilian police and the military, humanitarian and other civilian components of United Nations operations. It encourages efforts by Member States to organize joint training between civilian and military components designated for United Nations operations in order to improve coordination and security for personnel in the field.

"The Security Council expresses its gratitude to those countries which have contributed civilian police to the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations."

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S/PRST/1997/39
23 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3803rd meeting of the Security Council, held on 23 July 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Angola", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at recent destabilizing actions in Angola, in particular the failure of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) to comply with resolution 1118 (1997) of 30 June 1997 and its continued efforts to restore its military capabilities. The Council considers the information submitted by UNITA to the Joint Commission on 21 July 1997 with regard to the strength of its armed forces, the extension of state administration and the activities of Vorgan radio station to be neither complete nor credible.

"The Security Council condemns the mistreatment of the personnel of the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations in areas under UNITA control, as well as the harassment of United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) personnel in the exercise of their functions. Those actions by UNITA are unacceptable and contrary to its commitments under the Lusaka Protocol and to Security Council resolutions. In this regard, the Council fully supports the joint statement by MONUA and the representatives of the three Observer States issued on 14 July 1997.

"The Security Council notes with concern that the increasing tension in the northern part of the country is rapidly spreading to the central and southern provinces, with very dangerous implications for the implementation of the remaining tasks of the peace process, including those referred to in Security Council resolution 1118 (1997). The Council calls upon both parties to refrain from any use of force, in accordance with their commitments under the Lusaka Protocol.

"The Security Council also calls upon both parties to continue to work closely with the Joint Commission, and in particular UNITA, to cooperate

fully with MONUA and to ensure the freedom of movement and the safety of its personnel, as well as of international humanitarian organizations.

"The Security Council reiterates its belief that the long-awaited meeting within the territory of Angola between the President of Angola and the leader of UNITA could greatly contribute to the reduction of tension and to the process of national reconciliation.

"The Security Council notes with concern reports from MONUA that unauthorized aircraft have landed in territory under UNITA control. In this context, the Council calls upon all States to comply fully with paragraph 19 of resolution 864 (1993) of 15 September 1993.

"The Security Council reaffirms its readiness to consider the imposition of measures, inter alia, those specifically mentioned in paragraph 26 of resolution 864 (1993), unless UNITA takes irreversible and concrete steps immediately to fulfil its obligations under the Lusaka Protocol. These steps should include demilitarization of all its forces, transformation of its radio station Vorgan into a non-partisan broadcasting facility and full cooperation in the process of the normalization of state administration throughout Angola. The Council requests the Secretary-General to keep it fully informed on the implementation of those tasks and to assess their fulfilment by UNITA in his report which is to be submitted by 15 August 1997 in accordance with resolution 1118 (1997).

"Security Council will continue to monitor closely the situation in Angola and will remain seized of the matter."

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S/PRST/1997/40
29 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3804th meeting of the Security Council, held on 29 July 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has noted with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) of 16 July 1997 (S/1997/550 and Corr.1) submitted in conformity with resolution 1095 (1997) of 28 January 1997.

"The Security Council reaffirms its commitment to the full sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. In this context, the Council asserts that all States shall refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

"As the Security Council extends the mandate of UNIFIL for a further interim period on the basis of resolution 425 (1978), the Council again stresses the urgent need for the implementation of that resolution in all its aspects. It reiterates its full support for the Taif Agreement and for the continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate peace, national unity and security in the country, while successfully carrying out the reconstruction process. The Council commends the Lebanese Government for its successful effort to extend its authority in the south of the country in full coordination with UNIFIL.

"The Security Council expresses its concern over the continuing violence in southern Lebanon, regrets the loss of civilian life, and urges all parties to exercise restraint.

"The Security Council takes this opportunity to express its appreciation for the continuing efforts of the Secretary-General and his

staff in this regard. The Council notes with deep concern the high level of casualties which UNIFIL has suffered and pays a special tribute to all those who gave their life while serving in UNIFIL. It commends UNIFIL's troops and troop-contributing countries for their sacrifices and commitment to the cause of international peace and security under difficult circumstances."

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S/PRST/1997/41
30 July 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3805th meeting of the Security Council, held on 30 July 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Liberia", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the successful holding of presidential and legislative elections in Liberia on 19 July 1997. The Council notes with satisfaction the letter from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council (S/1997/581) and the declaration in the Joint Certification Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) that the electoral process was free, fair and credible, and that the outcome of the elections reflects the will of the Liberian voters.

"The Security Council calls upon all parties to abide by the results of the elections and to cooperate in the formation of a new government. The Council also calls upon the new government to protect the democratic system and to promote human rights and fundamental freedoms under the rule of law.

"The Security Council congratulates the people of Liberia on the courage and determination they have shown in proceeding with the elections under difficult circumstances. The Council commends all international personnel, especially those of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) and the Military Observer Group (ECOMOG) of ECOWAS, who contributed to the successful holding of elections.

"The Security Council welcomes the goodwill and cooperation demonstrated by the parties in the electoral process, which provides a strong foundation for the people of Liberia to achieve a durable peace, the re-establishment of constitutional government, and a return to the rule of law. The Council expresses the hope that the successful holding of elections will encourage refugees to exercise their right of return and calls upon the new government to fulfil its obligations under international law regarding returning refugees.

"The Security Council notes that the successful holding of elections represents a critical step towards economic development. The Council urges the international community to continue to provide support and assistance to Liberia through this period of reconstruction.

"The Security Council further notes that the successful conclusion of the electoral process marks the fulfilment of a key element of the UNOMIL mandate.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

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S/PRST/1997/42
6 August 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3809th meeting of the Security Council, held on 6 August 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Sierra Leone", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls the statements of its President of 27 May 1997 (S/PRST/1997/29) and 11 July 1997 (S/PRST/1997/36) following the military coup d'état in Sierra Leone on 25 May 1997. It condemns the overthrow of the democratically elected government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah and calls upon the military junta to take immediate steps to bring about the unconditional restoration of that government. The Council remains deeply concerned about the situation in Sierra Leone, which endangers peace, security and stability in the whole region.

"The Security Council underlines the need to implement the Abidjan Agreement which continues to serve as a viable framework for peace, stability, and reconciliation in Sierra Leone.

"The Security Council expresses its appreciation to the Committee of Four Foreign Ministers of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for their efforts to negotiate with representatives of the military junta from 17 to 18 July and 29 to 30 July 1997 in Abidjan on a peaceful resolution of the crisis, and reiterates its full support for the objectives of this mediation. It deeply regrets the breakdown of these talks, and considers that the responsibility for this failure rests entirely with the military junta who refused to negotiate in good faith.

"The Security Council considers that the military junta's attempt to set conditions for the restoration of the democratically elected government is unacceptable, and calls upon the junta to renounce its declared intention to remain in power and to resume negotiations with the ECOWAS Committee of Four Foreign Ministers without delay.

"The Security Council will, in the absence of a satisfactory response from the military junta, be ready to take appropriate measures with the objective of restoring the democratically elected government of President Kabbah.

"The Security Council remains deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone, and at the continued looting and commandeering of relief supplies of international agencies. It calls upon the military junta to cease all interference with the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone. The Council condemns the continuing violence and threats of violence by the junta towards the civilian population, foreign nationals and personnel of the ECOWAS monitoring group, and calls for an end to such acts of violence. The Council also expresses its concern at the effects of the continuing influx of refugees into neighbouring countries, in particular Guinea, due to the crisis in Sierra Leone. It calls upon all States and relevant international organizations to provide help to these countries in dealing with this problem.

"The Security Council will remain actively seized of this matter."

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/PRST/1997/43
13 August 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3810th meeting of the Security Council, held on 13 August 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in the Republic of the Congo", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council is deeply concerned about the situation in the Republic of the Congo following the outbreak of factional fighting in Brazzaville on 5 June 1997. The Council is particularly concerned at the plight of civilians caught up in the fighting, which has resulted in widespread loss of life, displacement of the population and severe humanitarian conditions in Brazzaville. The Council considers that the situation in the Republic of the Congo is likely to endanger peace, stability and security in the region.

"The Security Council expresses its full support for the efforts of the International Mediation Committee under the Chairmanship of the President of Gabon and the National Mediation Committee under the Chairmanship of the Mayor of Brazzaville to persuade the parties involved to reach agreement on a ceasefire and a peaceful settlement of the current crisis. It also affirms its support for the important and constructive role of the Joint United Nations/Organization of African Unity (OAU) Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region in these negotiations.

"The Security Council expresses its grave concern at the recent recurrence of fighting in Brazzaville, calls upon the two parties to the conflict to halt all acts of violence immediately and underlines the need to respect the ceasefire agreement signed on 14 July 1997. It also calls upon the two parties to resolve the crisis on the basis of the proposals submitted by the President of Gabon currently under discussion in Libreville, including agreement on an interim government of national unity and a timetable for the holding of Presidential elections.

"The Security Council recalls the letter of 20 June 1997 to its President from the Secretary-General (S/1997/483) drawing attention to the request of the President of Gabon for deployment of an appropriate force to Brazzaville, and the relevant letters to the Secretary-General from the President of the Republic of the Congo and the Secretary-General of the OAU

(S/1997/495, annexes I and II). The Council endorses the three conditions for the establishment of such a force set by the Secretary-General, namely complete adherence to an agreed and viable ceasefire, agreement to the international control of Brazzaville airport and a clear commitment to a negotiated settlement covering all political and military aspects of the crisis.

"The Security Council is of the view that, despite some positive political developments, these conditions have not yet been fulfilled and calls upon the parties to fulfil them without delay. The Council intends to take a decision on this matter once the Secretary-General has submitted a report to it on the question of the fulfilment of these conditions and containing recommendations on further United Nations involvement in the Republic of the Congo.

"The Security Council also calls upon both parties to respect relevant provisions of international humanitarian law and to ensure safe and unimpeded access by international humanitarian organizations to persons in need of assistance as a result of the conflict, and in any other way to facilitate the effective implementation of humanitarian programmes.

"The Security Council will remain seized of the matter."

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/PRST/1997/44
14 August 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

At the 3812th meeting of the Security Council, held on 14 August 1997 in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Albania", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council has considered the eleventh and last report of the operation of the multinational protection force in Albania of 11 August 1997 (S/1997/632), submitted pursuant to the requirement set out in paragraph 9 of resolution 1114 (1997).

"The Security Council notes with appreciation that the mandate of the multinational protection force, as set out in its resolutions 1101 (1997) and 1114 (1997) has been successfully fulfilled. The presence of the multinational protection force has contributed to the facilitation of safe and prompt delivery of humanitarian assistance in Albania. Its presence has also helped to create a secure environment for the missions of international organizations in Albania, as part of the efforts of the international community, particularly the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union, to find a peaceful solution to the crisis and to assist international organizations in their role in the electoral process in close cooperation with the Albanian authorities.

"The Security Council recognizes the role played by the multinational protection force and the Governments of the participating countries under Italian leadership in the full discharge of the mandate in assisting the Albanian authorities and the international organizations involved.

"The Security Council is of the view that the Albanian people and their authorities bear the primary responsibility for the future of Albania and for restoring normal conditions in the country. The necessary international assistance will be conditional upon Albania's own efforts at achieving reconciliation, security, rehabilitation and economic reform.

"In this respect, the Security Council encourages the international community to assist and support the economic, social and institutional rehabilitation of Albania, and welcomes the steps that have already been taken in this direction, including the preparatory meetings for the Ministerial Conference to be held in Rome in autumn 1997."